

REMARKS

Claims 14, 16-22, 25, 27-34 remain pending in this application. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Claims 34 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 34 has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in all aspects in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Embodiments of the present invention relate to a portable rechargeable electric lantern 102. The lantern comprises a first housing, such as base 108. As shown in Figure 5 of the present application, a rear of the base 108 may define a cavity 140 containing an AC connector 142. An AC adapter 144 includes AC to DC converter circuitry. The AC-DC converter circuitry may comprise discrete circuit components arranged on a printed circuit board. The discrete circuit components making up the AC-DC converter circuitry may have their own packaging. The AC-DC converter circuitry is substantially enclosed by a second housing. The second housing is then substantially enclosed by the base 108. Thus the AC-DC converter circuitry is enclosed within two housings, the base 108 and the second housing for the AC adapter. Incorporating the AC -DC converter circuitry within the second housing which is then arranged within the base 108 allows the lantern to meet applicable standards due to the construction of the second housing without the entire base 108 also being required to meet the standards. Please see the present specification, for example, page 7, line 13 – page 8, line 9.

Claims 25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 2,628,339 to Werner. Werner does not anticipate the present invention as it does not disclose, among other things, an AC-DC converter that is disposed within two housings, e.g. a second housing, which is then substantially enclosed by a first housing as is recited by the present claims.

Independent claim 25 recites that a light comprises a first housing defining a cavity therein. An AC to DC converter is disposed within a second housing. The second housing is substantially enclosed within the first housing. For example, the AC to DC converter may be a wall cube enclosing circuitry therein. The wall cube is then arranged within the lantern housing. Thus, the AC to DC converter circuitry is substantially enclosed by two housings.

In contrast, Werner, does not disclose, teach or suggest AC to DC converter circuitry that is substantially enclosed by two housings. The Office Action equates transformer 80 and rectifier 81 to the claimed AC-DC converter circuitry. The transformer 80 and the rectifier 81 are individual circuit components that are part of the AC to DC converter circuitry. A charging container 75 is provided to enclose the transformer 80 and the rectifier 81. The charging container 75 is not within any other housing. The packaging of the discrete circuit components forming the AC-DC converter circuitry does not correspond to the claimed second housing. For example, as is noted in the present specification, the AC-DC converter circuitry may include discrete circuit components arranged on a printed circuit board. The discrete circuit components and circuit board is then enclosed by a second housing. The second housing is then enclosed by an additional housing. The packaging, wrapping, etc. of the discrete circuit components is not the same as or similar to the claimed second housing. The second housing collectively encloses all of the discrete components and the circuit board.

The transformer 80 and rectifier 81 in Werner are enclosed with a charging container 75, which may correspond to the claimed second housing. However, charging container 75 is not enclosed by another housing. Thus, it is clear that the AC-DC converter circuit in Werner is only enclosed within a single housing, charging container 75. There is not two housings enclosing the AC-DC converter circuitry as is required by the pending claims.

Accordingly, the AC to DC converter circuitry in Werner, transformer 80 and rectifier 81, are only enclosed within a single housing, charging container 75. Charging container 75 is then arranged adjacent to container 11 that houses the rechargeable power supply. It can be plainly seen in Figure 1 of Werner that charging container 75 is not arranged within container 11. Accordingly,

Werner does not disclose or suggest a AC to DC convert circuitry disposed within a second housing which is then substantially enclosed by a first housing as is recited in the rejected claims.

In view of the above, it is clear that the cited references do not teach each and every element recited in the rejected as is required by 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Accordingly, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 16-19 have been rejected by 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Werner. Similar to claim 25, independent claim 14 also recites that AC-DC converter is disposed within a second housing. The second housing is substantially enclosed by a first housing. As noted above, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Werner et al. of enclosing AC-DC converter circuitry within a housing which is then enclosed by another housing. Therefore, for reasons similar to independent claim 25 discussed above, it is clear that there is no teaching or suggestion in Werner of claim 14. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Werner in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,260,985 to Zeller.

Claims 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over of Werner.

Claims 30 and 33-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Werner in view of Zeller .

Claims 31-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Werner in view of Zeller further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,789,924 to Yuen.

Each of these rejected claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 14 and 25 and is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding those claims. Zeller does not supplement Werner to teach or suggest the claimed elements missing from Werner. Yuen does

not supplement Werner and Zeller to teach or suggest the claimed elements missing from Werner and Zeller. Therefore, the withdrawal from the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in allowable form and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in allowable form and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arranged for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: June 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jeffri A. Kaminski
Registration No.: 42,709
Robert Kinberg
Registration No.: 26,924
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
(202) 344-4000
(202) 344-8300 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant